

Question and Answers to solicitation DTFR3-03-R-00003

1. Question: For the Oral Presentation, are there to be one or two overhead projectors?

Answer: There will be one overhead projector at the Oral Presentations.

2. Question: For the Oral Presentation, what is the approximate size of the conference room and the approximate number of attendees?

Answer: The conference room is about 1200 sq ft wide door to door. FRA will have at least 7 attendees at the Oral Presentations.

3. Question: Reference the incumbent facility in Alexandria, VA, is the Government directly chargeable for some, or all, of this space? The chargeable space would be included in your indirect cost.

4. Question: Per the RFP and the Bidder's conference, it was stated that the contract start date is to be October 1, 2003. Does the three (3) month transition start on October 1 or August 1, 2003?

Answer: The transition start up date is NLT than 60 days after date of award.

5. Question: Page 99, 106: Do you want hard copy of the entire slide presentation included in the Technical Proposal, in addition to the one-page abstract?

Answer: Hard copy slides are required of your Oral Presentation in addition to the one-page abstract.

6. Question: Which, if any, of the 8 Dell Servers listed in the GFI inventory, are rack mounted (versus free standing "Tower" configuration)?

Answer: All but two of the Dell Servers are rack mounted.

7. Question: Of the 6000 Sq Ft specified for the current facility, how many Sq Ft are "climate controlled" suitable for/utilized as the Hosting Center? How many Sq Ft, if any, as office space? How many Sq Ft, if any, as storage (equipment/Documents)?

Answers: The hosting center is 156 sq ft.
The storage space is 244 sq ft.
The kitchen is 89 sq ft
The office space is 5,611 sq ft.

8. Question: On page 102 of 126, (iii) Utilities

Statement: Data Delivery Options - Capabilities in multimedia delivery, email, and/or Internet. The system use of data compression utilities to manage file size.

Can this be clarified? What is to be delivered/received? Email, reports, data tape? Is email expected to be sending or receiving or both? What types of multimedia are anticipated?

Answer: Media received are diskette, CD-rom, internet transfer and e-mail. Use of compression technologies would include "ZIPped" files for dial-up users.

9. Question: On page 109 of 126, (2) Multiple Database Production Capabilities/Experience
Statement

Can the platform/format of the database be clarified for all systems (RIRS/GCIS/RAIRS)?
Oracle? SQL?

Answer: The Office of Safety systems do not use Oracle; a SQL server is used.

10. Question: On page 103 of 126, (vi) Installation

Will installations be required at each Inspector site? Does FRA expect the contractor to conduct the installations or will the Inspectors perform the install using the provided CD?

Answer: The contract will not install software on the inspector's computer. The FRA has regional computer specialists to assist inspectors. The contractor will have easy to load software (Wizard type) to inspectors/railroads to use on the CD-ROM.

11. Question: Can FRA clarify as to why this system is not web enabled? And, is the system intended for web enablement in the future?

Answer: Inspectors do not have access on the web at the current time. Railroads often choose not to use the web while they are entering information. This may change in the next five years with changes in technology and a standard electronic signature.

12. Question: What version of Microsoft Office will be on the demo laptop?

Answer: Office 2000 will be on the notebook computer

13. Question: Will the demo laptop be base lined (ghosted) to Windows98 after each demo presentation occurs?

Answer: The computer will not be ghosted after each demo. Vendors will be allowed to reinstall if there is a problem with the computer.

14. Question: In reference to the requirement that the system contained on the demo disk be able to run on the designated FRA laptop, which is a Windows 98 machine:
Our system that we would like to show is written in Oracle 9i, and will not run in that environment alone. The workstations accessing the system can easily be any such OS (including Win 98), but the database and reporting will not run except on Windows 2000 or NT, or XP.

Answer: The computer listed in the solicitation is to be used at the Oral Presentation. If invited to the oral presentation stage. The offeror must request in advance installation of Windows 2000.

Can we bring a server-based version of the system or load a server-type PC with the system? In order to demonstrate the advanced technologies and requirements that were mentioned at the Proposal conference, this system is our best available demonstration tool.

Answer: The application to be demonstrated must be a client only application. The company can revise the application to run as a client application for the oral presentation. The application must be submitted with the proposal.

15. Question: Does the FRA have you have an existing network architecture diagram that more fully describes the current placement and quantity of FRA GFE machines and third party software? For example, the number of machines used in the public and private web sites, the number of machines used for the master database and supporting analysis applications, where the SAS analytics

software runs, etc. If yes, then would FRA consider releasing it?

Answer: There is no current diagram of the configuration. Please refer to the GFE list for computers

16. Question: How many how many sites need to be supported?

Answer: There will be one site supported.

17. Question: Are all machines currently being hosted at the incumbent's site? Where is the "Washington File Server" hosted?

Answer: All the computers are at the incumbent's site. The backup computer is at another site hosted by the incumbent.

18. Question: Are all forms available for entry and submission through the secure site (<https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/securesite>), or just a subset of the forms?

Answer: The forms are available on the public site. Click on the form/publication tab.

19. Question: Are there multiple PC applications, or one PC application with different "modes"?

Answer: There are multiple applications: RISPC, AIRG, GX32 etc.

20. Question: What is the mechanism used by the FRA Inspectors to upload the data? Do the FRA inspectors dial to pool of modems or connect to the internet to upload the data?

Answer: The mechanism used to upload data is direct connection with the internet.

21. Question: Does Section A of the RFP include form SF-33?

SF-33 is Section A of the Solicitation.

22. Question: "If subcontractors are involved, does FRA require subcontractor cost information to be provided in a sealed packet along with the prime contractor's proposal, or will this be requested after review of proposals by the government?"

Answer: The subcontractors cost information should be provided along with the Prime contractors proposal.

23. Section L.6.(c)(4), page 115, states that "one or more of their references identified by the offeror will be requested to complete a Contractor Performance Assessment Survey (Attachment 6) or consent to a telephone interview, using the survey as the focal point of the interview, or both."

Please clarify whether the reference should actually submit the completed survey to FRA now, or whether the reference is to submit the completed survey only if contacted and requested by FRA (after proposal submission). If prior to proposal submission, is there a deadline for receipt of surveys?

Answer: Surveys should be submitted by the closing date of the solicitation.

24. Question: Volume 3, Business and Cost Proposal, requires one (1) signed copy of the Sections A-K of the RFP and five (5) copies of RFP Sections A and B. Are the 5 copies of Sections A and B in addition to or including the 1 copy that will be contained in RFP Sections A-K?

Answer: The five copies of Section A & B are in addition to the 1 signed copy of Section A-K.

25. Question: Does the 75 minutes include installation and set up (i.e. they give us the CD's, we install and test), or do we get some time before the 75 minutes? If the latter, how much time?

Answer: The 75 minutes includes everything from installation to deinstallation.

26. Question: Following the oral presentation, will the government return the software demonstration CD-ROMs to the offeror?

Answer: The software CD-ROMs will be returned to the offeror.

27. Question: RFP Section L.5.b(1)(a) states that the offeror should provide up to two CD-ROMS of a data entry client-based software package(s). How should the offeror provide PowerPoint slides for other areas of the presentation (i.e., Internet sites)? Should the offeror submit a third CD-ROM for PowerPoint slides with the proposal?

Answer: The offeror should provide 7 copies of the website presentation with the proposal.